

# First to Fire Newsletter



## Operation Clear Skies

When the Homeland Security Threat Level was suddenly elevated to Orange on 7 February 2003, the 4-5 ADA, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, deployed Avengers, Sentinel Radars and Forward Area Air Defense C3I nodes to protect the National Capital Region from potential terrorist attacks. Every major television network and most major newspapers broadcasted video clips or published dramatic photos of Avengers with the Washington Monument or Capitol Building in the background.

Our SHORAD forces had participated in three previous Clear Skies exercises. (Clear Skies II, held on the first anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, became an actual operation when Avenger gunners were ordered to load live missiles.) However, the February threat alert, as *Newsweek* reported, "crescendomed into a national panic," and made Avenger a symbol of our Homeland Air Security effort.

Key participants in Clear Skies from the ADA community have been: 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) and 35th ADA Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas; 1-3 ADA, 24th Infantry Division; 4-5 ADA, 1st Cavalry Division; TSM-LT, Directorate of Training Doctrine, and the Army Training and Evaluation Center (ATEC), Fort Bliss.

## SHORAD Sustainment (HTU/FLIR)

Units preparing for potential war with Iraq face serious sustainment issues with key LRUs on the Avenger platform. The FLIR and the HTU are among the most problematic to repair/replace. The FLIR is essentially at zero balance Army-wide, though CW5 Carnell of TSM LT has been invited to attend a form, fit, function comparison of two potential replacements. PM FLIR received some funds for FLIR sustainment, and PM SHORAD will be looking at potential solutions of two vendors: Cincinnati Electronics and DRS. While not an immediate solution, it is hoped that one of these options will prove to be a viable, affordable solution.

The HTU repair problem is one of obsolescence, and is exacerbated because repairs can only be done at the L3 (formerly Litton) facility in San Diego. PM CHS and their prime, General Dynamics, were initially unprepared to meet user's needs in theater for the tracking, shipping, or repair of damaged HTUs. TSM LT attended a meeting with PM CHS, PM AMDCCS, and General Dynamics personnel in Huntsville and helped develop solutions to better track and repair HTUs in theater, including possibly sending a repair tech from San Diego forward to affect repairs more quickly.

## Fort Bliss Deployments

Fort Bliss, the Army's air and missile defense power-projection platform, continues to deploy soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. As of 27 Feb 03, more than 3,000 soldiers from the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command and Fort Bliss ADA brigades and battalions had departed Fort Bliss' Biggs Army Airfield for "undisclosed locations" in the Middle East.



Specialist Brandon Sapikowski, Launch Station Operator Maintainer, performs an operations check on a Patriot Missile Launch Station. Sapikowski, the Assistance Maintenance NCO, is deployed with the 35th ADA Brigade to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

### Missile Defense Gains Momentum

In an article titled "U.S. Missile Plan Seems Well on its Way," *Defense News* predicted, "How well theater missile defense systems — the Patriot Advanced Capabilities-3 system in particular — work in combat could have substantial influence on the future of missile defense." While it's true that our theater air and missile defense force will be closely watched during a possible war with Iraq, it's an exaggeration to say the future of missile defense depends on a single roll of the dice.

The term "weapons of mass destruction" has escaped the military lexicon to become part of the general vocabulary. With the War on Terror exposing the magnitude of ballistic and cruise missile proliferation, our efforts to build integrated air and missile defense infrastructures have become high priority. Once reluctant allies are signifying their willingness to participate, or at least cooperate, in the construction of antiballistic missile shields.

For example, a Japanese newspaper reported in mid-February 2003 that Japan has decided to start joint experiments with the United States next year on shooting down ballistic missiles, a response to rising tensions over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program. The *Stars & Stripes* reported that the 2004 U.S. budget is \$54 million for two flight tests of interceptor missile components with Japan, scheduled for fiscal 2005 and 2006.

### Former ADA Officer to Head Iraq 'Reconstruction'

The British press has labeled former air defender, Lt. Gen. Jay M. Garner as the "man who will replace Saddam" but the Bush administration has tentatively dubbed him "senior civilian administrator," avoiding the term "military governor." A former Vice-Chief of U.S. Army Staff, General Garner, 64, was appointed recently to head a new Pentagon office for postwar planning called the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance that has become a virtual "government-in-waiting." According to press reports, the "expeditionary" office would immediately deploy if the United States leads an invasion of Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Garner led Operation Provide Comfort to help fleeing Kurds at the end of the Gulf War. He served as the Deputy Commanding General, Fort Bliss, Texas, and Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School.

### Satellite Communications Terminals

The Lower-Tier Project Office has fielded SATCOM Terminals to units deploying on contingency operations in the CENTCOM AOR. The SATCOM Terminal provides Patriot units a secure capability to transfer embedded data recorder (EDR) information directly to a central data network in Huntsville. From there, data can be quickly disseminated to Raytheon, Lockheed

Martin, and LTPO to analyze tactical engagements or system anomalies. The system can also transfer program files and would be key in distributing software patches or operational white papers to geographically dispersed units with no secure communications capability.

### Juniper Cobra

Israeli and U.S. soldiers fired Patriot missiles in early February during Exercise Juniper Cobra in Israel's southern Negev Desert. The three-week long exercise, widely regarded as a preview of Scud missile engagements that might occur during a United States-led war against Iraq, was staged to determine the effectiveness and interoperability of intercept systems, including Israel's upper-tier Arrow missile, against simulated Scud attacks.

### Northrop Grumman Becomes Prime Contractor for Tactical High Energy Laser

With its recent acquisition of TRW, Inc., Northrop Grumman has become the prime contractor for the U.S. Army's Tactical High Energy Laser/Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrator (THEL/ACTD) program. The program has successfully completed integration and functional testing of the first THEL/ACTD fire unit at the Army's High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility (HELSTF), White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The THEL/ACTD beam director, shown in the photo, is the key optical component that directs the high-energy laser beam to its target.

The Department of Defense expects to issue a competitive award next year for construction of a mobile laser demonstration in 2004. The Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser (MTHL) will be tested against mortars and possibly cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles. Once a concept for integrating high-energy laser technology onto a standard mobile platform is selected, a prototype MTHL should be available within five years.

### Patriot Battery Command Post

In February 2003, 3-2 ADA was the fourth unit to receive the Battery Command Post. The Battery Command Post supports the Patriot system with increased command and control capabilities. It is designed to interface with the Patriot Engagement Control Station (ECS), Tactical Communications System (TCS), and other Battery Command Posts to perform force operations functions within a coordinated command, control, communication, and intelligence system.

As part of the fielding, 3-2 ADA soldiers were the first in the military to receive new Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS) Terminals, an upgrade to JTIDS radios currently in the force. The MIDS terminal provides Patriot units the means to operate on TADIL-J networks.

**Transfer of PAC-3 and MEADS Program to Army**

On 2 January 2002, the Secretary of Defense directed the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to develop a plan for transferring the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) and MEADS programs to the Army by FY03. The Undersecretary of Defense provided 60-day notification letters to Congress on 30 December 2002 stating his intent to transfer PAC-3 to the Army, including RDTE associated with Army requirements. Coordinating the transfer is an Army and MDA Board of Directors (BoD), which met last on 31 January 2003.

The draft Transfer Plan, dated 5 February 2003, outlines actions and responsibilities required to affect the transfer. An Army/MDA Tiger Team has been formed to synchronize the transition schedule and will report at the next BoD (18 April 2003). The Army DAB briefing on 7 April 03 will present a plan for the combined development, management, and fielding of PAC-3 and MEADS to Mr. Aldridge. Effective date of transfer is planned for 1 October 2003.

**Air, Land, Sea Application Center (ALSA) to Lead Development of Air Defense of U.S. MTTPs**

ALSA has now received consensus from all components involved to begin the formal process to develop Multiservice Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (MTTPs) applicable to the new Air Defense of U.S. mission as one of the significant aspects of our Homeland Defense program. The process of developing this MTTP document will require a series of joint workgroups (JWs), lead by ALSA, over the next nine months.

The first JWG is scheduled for 1-4 Apr 03 at ALSA Headquarters, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, and will bring together all of the key participants from NORAD, Air Force, appropriate Army ADA units, and interagencies to formulate this critical document. Subsequent JWGs will be coordinated and scheduled throughout the process, as required. Our current doctrine (Joint/Army/ADA) does not provide the guidance required to accomplish this unique mission.

The purpose of this publication is to provide general guidance and information for planning and execution of integrated homeland air defense in a joint/inter-agency environment. To ensure an integrated defense, full coordination between all component elements and governmental agencies is essential. This document will serve as a single-source, quick reference to facilitate decision-making, planning, and execution of homeland air defense operations at all levels.

The document will clarify the relationship between the various command and control (C2) nodes, organizations, and agencies involved in homeland air defense operations; and in doing so, contribute to efficient use of joint resources and expedite timely operations. Once completed, this MTTP should transition to NORTHCOM for updates as required.

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, specific ADA units, as well as elements of the ADA School, have been actively involved in both training exercises and actual air defense of U.S. operations. With these experiences and applicable lessons learned, we're continuing to actively participate in the evolution of this critical Homeland Defense mission. More to follow in the coming months.

Air and missile defense soldiers are trained and capable of operating and performing equally well at any echelon.

**U.S. Patriot Soldiers in Jordan**

According to Reuters, Jordanian officials publicly acknowledge for the first time 24 February 03 that U.S. troops are being deployed in the kingdom to operate newly delivered Patriot missile systems. These antimissile systems are to be manned by U.S. troops with the help of Jordanian armed forces.

**Cruise Missile Defense Training**

*Jane's Defence Weekly* reported that the Department of Defense is working to improve the operational effectiveness of joint cruise missile defenses. The project includes developing a Joint Cruise Missile Defense simulation capability; creating realistic, instrumented cruise missile targets; and fielding a deployable Remote Operations Center for use at training ranges.

The Small Manned Aerial Radar Target Model 1 (SMART-1) will serve as a surrogate cruise missile target. The Joint Cruise Missile Defense Joint Test and Evaluation Program officials intend use the Remote Operations Center, including SMART-1, when it participates in Exercise Roving Sands 2003 at Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

If the Defense Department commits to fielding this simulation capability, Boeing's Virtual Warfare Center in St Louis, Missouri, would serve as the "hub" for threat and scenario data, *Jane's* said. It would support a distributed network of nodes across the United States at which air defenders could train, refine their skills, understand the strengths and weaknesses of their systems and work toward improving JCMD battle management tactics and procedures.

**ARMY CMD BRIEF TO VCSA**

An Army Cruise Missile Defense (CMD) brief recommending additional funding for synchronizing the Army complement to the Joint CMD architecture via development of Integrated Fire Control was presented to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army (VCSA) on 27 Feb 2003. VCSA accepted the recommendation but directed a further effort to be expedited that fields a more robust capability earlier to counter emerging CM threats. An assessment will be conducted with SMDC, USAADASCH, ARSTAF and others to further develop a more robust option for VCSA approval.